By Liam Timmins

Some thirty-three sightseers with the Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association just returned from sunny Spain, decorated in beautiful tans following a ten-day holiday at the coastal town of Cambrils.

Taking a bus to Shannon Airport, the tour group caught a flight to north-eastern Spanish city Reus. The BARA members were immediately met with the beautiful Mediterranean weather and were welcomed to the luxurious Sol Port Cambrils Hotel for their stay.

Between moments basking in the sunshine, the retirees were busy exploring the coastal town and enjoying the cuisine on offer. Later the company returned to their hotel for music and sing-alongs, dancing the nights away.

Their daytrip to Barcelona and three-hour sail on a catamaran were described as particular highlights during the holiday. The tour returned home safely following their trip, agreeing collectively they would love to return.

Meanwhile, on the October Bank Holiday Weekend, some BARA members boarded a bus to the Galway Races against the pouring rain, determined to beat the bookies. From the comfort of the Millennium Stand they enjoyed an appetizing four course meal while spectating the action.

Following some serious business studying the mounts form, the crowd placed their modest bets. The day hadn't resulted in anyone making or losing a fortune but proved to be an enjoyable outing despite the downpour.

The next date on their calendar was a visit to the Shamrock Lodge Hotel in Athlone, enjoying a Christmas Dinner before a thrilling performance by the ever-popular Brendan Shine and his band. Their following trip brought them to the Gleneagle Hotel for four nights where their bowling team later competed in the All-Ireland final.

The Association will be attending another Christmas Dinner at Gullane's Hotel on December 6th, followed by their final weekly meeting on December 20th prior to the holidays. Their gatherings will return at Gullane's from January 10, and their next AGM will be held at the hotel on February 7.

"We wish all our members and friends a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2024" extends PRO Chris O' Flynn. "We also thank Tomas, Caroline and wonderful staff for allowing us to make their hotel our second home."

New members are always welcome to join the association. Those interested can contact Chris by phone at (087) 649 2466 or by mail at chrisoflynn9@gmail.com.

Eileen Egan, Kitty Colbert, Anne Murray, Kitty Cahill in Cambrils

Ita Rigney, Mary Fitzpatrick, Betty Noone at the Galway Races

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